

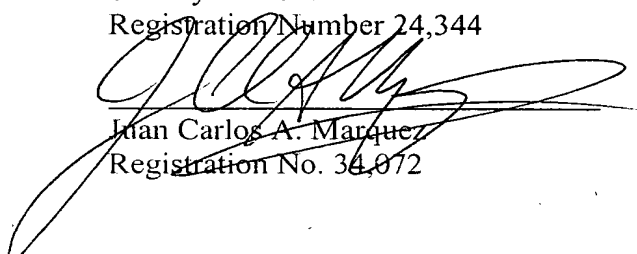
REMARKS

Applicant has canceled Claims 16-22. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of these amendments.

In view of the above amendments and Applicant's comments stated herein, Applicant respectfully requests an early and favorable action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344



Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration No. 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive
Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

December 31, 2003